



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

KINGSTON MAN CHARGED WITH FEDERAL WEAPONS OFFENSES

Re: United States v. Randall Thompson

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, announce that Randall Thompson, 57, of Nashua, New Hampshire turned himself in at U.S. District Court in Concord on May 18, 2004 after being charged by a Criminal Complaint with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

THOMPSON appeared in the U.S. District Court before U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead, who released him pending indictment and trial. Magistrate Judge Muirhead also imposed behavioral conditions to be monitored and enforced by the United States Probation Office. THOMPSON faces maximum terms of imprisonment ranging from 10 years to life depending on his criminal record.

An affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint issued by Magistrate Judge Muirhead alleges that THOMPSON, who was previously convicted of several drug distribution felonies, illegally possessed a handgun and ammunition when a Nashua patrolman pulled him over in his vehicle in downtown Nashua on February 15, 2004. Federal law prohibits individuals convicted of felonies from purchasing or possessing firearms.

The case against THOMPSON is part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods "a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America."

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.

A criminal complaint is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.